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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in accordance with its mandate during the two-year period from July 2009 to June 2011.

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre increased its assistance to Member States and intergovernmental and civil society organizations in Africa to promote peace and security through disarmament and arms regulation.

The Regional Centre focused its work on assisting Member States in the region and cooperated with regional and subregional organizations to address the threats posed to peace, security and socio-economic development by the proliferation in the region of small arms and light weapons. It provided assistance to the African Union Commission in its efforts to adopt an African strategy to control small arms and light weapons and on reaching an African Union common position on the proposed arms trade treaty. It provided significant support to the Central African States towards the conclusion of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly, and the adoption of its implementation plan. The Regional Centre also worked closely with the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States, and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, in supporting States in their national implementation of global and subregional instruments related to small arms and light weapons.

* A/66/150.

The Regional Centre provided technical assistance to States in Africa on security sector reform matters through several initiatives, including the training of armed and security forces, civilian law enforcement personnel and parliamentarians, particularly in the context of armed violence reduction and election security.

The Regional Centre has been recognized by its partners for its expertise and knowledge on a wide array of topics ranging from the control of small arms and light weapons to security sector reform in the African region. It received increased requests for assistance and cooperation from Member States, regional organizations and civil society in the region. The Regional Centre continues to rely solely on voluntary contributions to implement its programmes. The Secretary-General wishes to thank those Member States and other institutions that have made financial and in-kind contributions to the Regional Centre, enabling it to fulfil its mandate during this reporting period, and calls on all Member States and other stakeholders to continue to provide financial and in-kind contributions to it.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/62, by which the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution.
2. The General Assembly reaffirmed the role of the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in promoting peace, security and disarmament at the regional level and requested the Secretary-General to facilitate closer cooperation between the Regional Centre and the African Union, in particular in the areas of peace, security and disarmament.
3. The report covers the period from July 2009 to June 2011. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for the biennium 2009-2010 is contained in the annex.

II. Functioning and mandate of the Regional Centre

4. The Regional Centre was established in 1986 in Lomé, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G. It is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of African Member States towards the realization of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in cooperation with the African Union.

III. Activities of the Regional Centre

5. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre implemented its programme of work in the following main areas: (a) disarmament and arms control and (b) peace and security, including security sector reform. In these areas, the Regional Centre provided, upon request, assistance and capacity-building to Member States, the African Union and other regional stakeholders in the areas of security and disarmament, including through training, technical assistance, information sharing, outreach and advocacy. In doing so, the Regional Centre cooperated with donors, regional and subregional organizations, other United Nations entities and civil society organizations. The Regional Centre has focused its activities on the control of small arms and light weapons and security sector reform.

A. Disarmament and arms control

Small arms and light weapons

6. The Regional Centre has continued to promote practical disarmament measures in Africa, with an emphasis on the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. It has provided capacity-building, technical and legal assistance, as well as practical training to States in the region so as to assist their implementation of global and regional/subregional instruments, such as the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the International Instrument to

Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument), the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (Nairobi Protocol) and the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials of the Economic Community of West African States.

7. The assistance provided by the Regional Centre to Member States included the development of a guide for the harmonization of the national legislative frameworks of the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with the provisions of the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials of the Economic Community of West African States; the creation and installation of electronic software for regulating brokering activities involving small arms and light weapons in the States parties to the Nairobi Protocol; and the development of a legal instrument for the control of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention), which was adopted during the thirtieth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in Kinshasa in May 2010.

Support to the African Union

8. The Regional Centre represents the United Nations system on the African Union-Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons. In that capacity, the Centre has provided political, technical and legal advice to the Steering Committee on the development of an African strategy to control small arms and light weapons. The Regional Centre also consulted with the African Union Commission on formulating a project on the application by African States of international best practices on stockpile management of small arms and light weapons. These activities in support of the Commission were undertaken at the request of the African Union and within the framework of the 10-year capacity-building plan for the African Union.¹

9. Further, the Regional Centre has participated as an implementing partner in the African Union continent-wide small arms and light weapons project that is being carried out by the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons to assist African regional economic communities to better control small arms and light weapons. It co-organized, with the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the central African activity identification seminar, one of the subregional seminars aimed at identifying the priorities of the regional economic communities for action. The seminar was held in Yaoundé from 4 to 6 December 2010 and was organized in cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The Regional Centre also shared its expertise and contributed to the project consolidation seminar of the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons/African Union/European Union, held from 17 to 18 January 2011 in Addis Ababa, which produced a road map for activities for the remaining two years of the project.

¹ See <http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/organs/200%20communique%20UNREC%20EN.pdf>.

Regulating small arms brokering

10. In 2009, the Regional Centre launched its project on "Regulating small arms brokering in Africa" and completed its main activities by the end of 2010. The project was implemented in five East African countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda) and was undertaken in cooperation with the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons, with financial support from the Government of Austria. The project strengthened the capacity of the national focal points on small arms and light weapons in the participating States to better control brokering activities in small arms and light weapons. Major outputs of the project included the development and installation of electronic software to register brokers and brokering licences, the compilation of legislation related to brokering, national studies on legislative and regulatory frameworks, an inventory of existing brokers in participating States, and the provision of technical assistance to national focal points on brokering issues. The Regional Centre also trained law enforcement personnel on brokering mechanisms, in particular on the use of software and the issuance of brokering licences, and issued a publication on the major findings of the national studies. The project established the basis for enhanced cooperation and information sharing on the brokering of small arms and light weapons in East Africa.

11. An additional project activity was organized at the specific request of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, where the Regional Centre assisted the national focal point and relevant Government departments in the review of the national legislation and regulation on small arms and light weapons, in cooperation with the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

12. The project revealed that most States in the subregion still lacked specific brokering legislation, particularly in accordance with their obligations under the Nairobi Protocol. The Regional Centre, in cooperation with the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons, therefore intends to conduct a review and update of national legislation on small arms and light weapons for States parties to the Nairobi Protocol.

13. The Regional Centre, in cooperation with ECOWAS, is planning to expand the project to West African States, including the provision to ECOWAS of an electronic register of subregional transfer exemptions of small arms and light weapons, as required by the ECOWAS Convention.

Technical assistance to the Economic Community of West African States on harmonization of national legislation

14. The Regional Centre continued to provide technical assistance to ECOWAS, through the project entitled "Implementing practical disarmament measures in West Africa: technical support to the ECOWAS small arms unit and to the ECOWAS small arms programme", which is funded by the Government of Austria. The project promotes the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Convention and has resulted in the development and elaboration of a guide for the harmonization of national legislation on small arms and light weapons in ECOWAS States and the design and installation of a database on national legislation on small arms and light weapons in West Africa at the headquarters of the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja. The guide for the harmonization of national legislation on small arms and light weapons was

submitted to the ECOWAS Commission in December 2010, for adoption at the next ministerial meeting of the Commission.

15. The database on small arms and light weapons legislation in West Africa, referred to above, is an effective tool for the ECOWAS Commission to promote the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention. As a follow-up activity, the Regional Centre and ECOWAS agreed to cooperate in organizing national seminars for all 15 States parties to the Convention to review, update and harmonize their respective national legislation on small arms and light weapons.

Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly

16. At the request of the member States of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the Regional Centre prepared a draft legal instrument for the control of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, which was adopted in April 2010 as the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly. This project received financial support from the Government of Austria (for detailed information on the Convention, see section B below).

Other capacity-building and technical assistance activities

17. The Regional Centre continued to provide technical assistance to the national commissions on small arms and light weapons of West African States. In this respect, in August 2009, the Regional Centre provided assistance to the national commission of the Government of Benin, specifically in reviewing and updating its legislation on small arms and light weapons. In July 2010, the Centre assisted the national commission of the Government of Togo in the review of its draft legislation on the control of small arms and light weapons and in the drafting of the Togolese national action plan for their management and control. Additionally, and in cooperation with the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Regional Centre assisted the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in the review of its national legislation and regulations on small arms and light weapons.

18. In partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Regional Centre organized a series of capacity-building workshops for parliamentarians from ECOWAS member States. The theme of the first workshop, held in Lomé in December 2009, was "International and regional instruments on the control of small arms and light weapons: implementation at the national level". The second workshop on the international dimension of small arms control in West Africa was held in Accra in May 2010. The Regional Centre also organized, in cooperation with the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, two interparliamentary conferences on small arms in Bamako in February 2010 and in Monrovia in October 2010. The conferences addressed, among other issues, the national implementation of international and regional instruments on small arms and light weapons through the development of national legislation and parliamentary oversight over the security sector.

19. The Regional Centre provided substantive support to a capacity-building workshop for the establishment of the Central African Action Network on Small

Arms in July 2010 in Libreville and also assisted the network in drafting its plan of action. The workshop laid the groundwork for cooperation between civil society, Governments and other stakeholders in the subregion to jointly develop and implement policies to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa. It also promoted the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention.

Outreach and advocacy on control of small arms and light weapons

20. In April 2010, the Regional Centre organized a meeting for member States of the Standing Advisory Committee to review progress in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which was held in Kinshasa. Member States of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted an outcome document,² which addressed issues such as the link between the control and development of small arms and light weapons, international assistance, and the role of women and civil society in the control of small arms and light weapons. The meeting also allowed member States of the Standing Advisory Committee to coordinate positions in preparation for the fourth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action, which was held in New York in June 2010.

21. Illicit trafficking of drugs poses a challenge in some countries in West Africa. In this regard, the Regional Centre, at the ECOWAS ministerial meeting on drug trafficking, held in Cape Verde in October 2009, contributed substantive input on the nexus between illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and drug trafficking in the subregion.

Arms trade treaty

22. Given the relevance of an arms trade treaty to African States, the Regional Centre supported them in the treaty negotiation process. At the request of the African Union, the Regional Centre assisted in the development of a draft African common position on the treaty, which will be presented to African Union governmental experts for endorsement in September 2011. The Regional Centre also provided technical assistance to members of ECOWAS and member States of the Standing Advisory Committee in the adoption of a common position on the treaty for their respective subregions. These subregional common positions contributed to the development of the common position of the African Union on the treaty.

23. The Regional Centre also supported two subregional seminars organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the treaty, which were held in Addis Ababa and Casablanca, Morocco. Both seminars supported the preparatory process leading to the 2012 United Nations Conference on the treaty and assisted African Member States in developing expertise to effectively implement arms transfer controls.

24. In addition, the Regional Centre, the International Action Network on Small Arms and Oxfam International jointly organized a conference on the arms trade treaty for civil society organizations in Addis Ababa in December 2009. The workshop drew representatives of civil society organizations from Southern Africa, East Africa, the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa to discuss actions to be

² See http://www.poa-iss.org/poa/Documents/Kinshasa_Outcome_Document.pdf.

taken before the United Nations conference on the arms trade treaty to be held in 2012. The Regional Centre also assisted in the development of the workplan of Network member organizations in Africa on the promotion of the treaty.

Weapons of mass destruction

25. With the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty) on 15 July 2009, the Regional Centre provided focused political and technical support to the African Union regarding its implementation. The Centre co-hosted with the Institute for Security Studies two subregional seminars (in Accra in 2009 and in Pretoria in 2010) for West, Central, East and Southern African States in preparation for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In addition to discussing the Review Conference, the seminars provided an opportunity for participating African States to discuss matters related to the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty, as well as its implementation.

26. The Regional Centre also participated in a workshop of independent experts, held in Pretoria in March 2010, which was organized by the Institute for Security Studies and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, on the establishment of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, which is responsible for ensuring the compliance of States parties with their obligations under the Pelindaba Treaty.

27. The Regional Centre also supported African States in their efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), including by identifying challenges facing African States in that regard and possible ways to address them. In that context, the Regional Centre provided substantive input for an African regional seminar held in Cairo in December 2009, organized by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

28. The Regional Centre further provided support to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in the organization of an African continent seminar to promote the ratification and entry into force of the treaty, which was held in Rabat in October 2010.

B. Peace and security

Security sector reform

29. In response to requests from Member States, the Regional Centre carried out activities relating to security sector reform. In that context, the Centre helped build the capacity of security forces and members of parliamentary defence and security committees in 16 African countries within the framework of the African Security Sector Reform Programme, launched in 2007. These efforts were undertaken in cooperation with partner entities, including the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the African Security Sector Network, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The training programme focused on (a) best practices in the use of force, the rule of law, and strengthening the knowledge of policing principles and the implementation of humanitarian law and human rights principles in law enforcement operations; and (b) practical

measures to improve the relationship between the military and civilians. It also sought to enhance the capacity of relevant national actors, such as parliamentarians, civil society, and the armed and security forces. The maintenance of order and preventing armed violence during election periods were major components of the training programme for law enforcement officers, which included a practical field exercise. Security forces personnel from Guinea, the Niger and Togo participated in the training programme in 2010 and 2011 in preparation for the elections in their respective countries. To expand the impact of the programme, over 100 security and law enforcement personnel from each country were trained to become trainers. The Regional Centre provided each potential trainer with training materials, which included a guide for election security and a video clip of the simulation exercise, focusing on democratic principles and practices in preventing violence during elections. One of the training sessions in Togo also involved community leaders, including chiefs, on peace, reconciliation and human rights aspects.

30. The Regional Centre contributed its expertise on capacity-building of the security forces for law enforcement in electoral periods to a subregional forum on securing electoral processes in West Africa held in Conakry in May 2010. The forum was organized by the Government of Guinea, the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and was initiated during the process to secure the Guinean election of July 2010. It aimed at identifying best practices from elsewhere in West Africa. The Regional Centre further cooperated with UNOWA by participating in two expert meetings on security sector reform and governance that were held in Dakar in February 2010 and were initiated by UNOWA. The first expert workshop focused on governance challenges of the security sector in West Africa while the second aimed at defining a framework and an action plan for regional security sector reform and governance.

31. Parliamentarians also benefited from the African Security Sector Reform Programme, which assisted them in their oversight of the security sector, particularly their important role in small arms and light weapons control. In that respect, the Regional Centre held a series of seminars for West African parliamentarians in Accra, Bamako, Monrovia, and Ouagadougou.

32. In Central Africa, the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the African Security Sector Network, also conducted a series of training sessions for provincial parliaments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo³ in August 2010. The training focused on the concept, legal basis, methodology and strategies for parliamentary oversight of the security sector at the local level. Observers from the defence and security forces, parliamentary assistants and civil society organizations also attended these training sessions.

33. In 2010, the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie and the African Security Sector Network, published a book on security and justice systems reform in francophone Africa.⁴ The book, which originated from a 2009 workshop held in Lomé on the subject that was co-organized by those three organizations, highlighted the political, legal and security sector specificities of French-speaking African countries and made several recommendations for security sector reform processes.

³ Western Kasai, Bas Congo and South Kivu.

⁴ *La réforme des systèmes de sécurité et de justice en Afrique francophone*, available from www.francophonie.org/IMG/pdf/reformes_systemes_securite.pdf.

United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

34. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre, in its capacity as the secretariat of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, provided substantive and technical services for the twenty-ninth, thirtieth, thirty-first and thirty-second ministerial meetings of the Committee. A major achievement of the Committee was the adoption of the Kinshasa Convention. The Committee, apart from its traditional review of the political and security situation, and issues related to security and disarmament in the subregion, also discussed other priority concerns, including combating maritime piracy, illegal exploitation of natural resources and its impact on peace and security in Central Africa, and women's role in peace and security, as well as the impact of climate change on peace and security in the region.

35. The draft convention was prepared on the basis of an extensive consultative process that involved both independent and governmental experts from the subregion and beyond. At the request of member States of the Committee, the Regional Centre drafted the convention, which was adopted at the thirtieth ministerial meeting of the Committee on 30 April 2010 in Kinshasa. It was opened for signature on 19 November 2010 in Brazzaville during the thirty-first ministerial meeting. The scope of the Kinshasa Convention is broad and takes into account the most recent developments in global and regional initiatives aimed at combating illicit small arms and light weapons. It also draws upon the best practices and experience of Africa as well as other regions. An implementation plan for the Convention was adopted at the thirty-first ministerial meeting of the Committee, which demonstrated the determination of member States to implement it in an effective and timely manner.

36. The Secretary-General welcomed the adoption of the Kinshasa Convention, the first instrument of this nature for the subregion, which will help to reduce violence and bring peace and security dividends to the States of the region. Its early entry into force and effective implementation will strengthen peace and security in Central Africa by controlling the flow of small arms and light weapons across borders and within States.

Women, peace and security

37. With technical assistance from the Regional Centre, member States of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa adopted four actions to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.⁵ The Regional Centre also assisted women's groups in defining awareness-raising and capacity-building activities for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). It further contributed to the formulation of national action plans on resolution 1325 (2000) and to the development of national women's networks for peace and security in West and Central Africa. The

⁵ Designation by each Member State of a focal point for resolution 1325 (2000) from among the ministries responsible for matters of peace and security; inclusion of women in national delegations attending international and regional disarmament conferences; inclusion of women in national commissions on small arms and light weapons; reaffirmation of the commitment by Member States to comply with and implement the then four Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, and to submit the required national reports.

Regional Centre was also actively involved in the discussions and development of best practices on integrating gender issues into security sector reform, for example by mainstreaming resolution 1325 (2000) in its African Security Sector Reform Programme.

38. The Regional Centre assisted the Government of Togo in implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) by co-organizing with the Government a specific training session on issues related to violence against women for female officers of the gendarmerie and security forces in Lomé in January 2010. It also organized, at the request of the General Staff of the Togolese armed forces, a seminar on the issue of gender in the armed and security forces in Togo in April 2011. Forty participants from the different branches of the Togolese armed and security forces debated relevant gender-related issues.

Other peace and security activities

39. The Regional Centre participated in study missions on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, which were held in Liberia in July 2010 and Sierra Leone in September 2010 and were led by the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The aim of the missions was to identify lessons learned on the disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes implemented in post-conflict situations in those countries, with the objective of developing a best practices guide on practical disarmament in East Africa.

40. The Regional Centre co-organized, with UNDP and the secretariat of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, a seminar on promising practices in armed violence prevention and reduction in East and Central Africa. The seminar, which was held in Nairobi in February 2011, brought together experts and practitioners from Governments, civil society, and international and regional organizations, including members of the United Nations inter-agency Armed Violence Prevention Programme.⁶ The seminar discussed various measures to tackle the issue, including disarmament, arms control, law enforcement, public education, awareness-raising, economic development, urban planning and environmental design, youth work, health and social policies. The Regional Centre shared its expertise on practical disarmament and addressing armed violence issues.

C. Information and outreach

41. In an effort to provide easier access to information on its role and activities on peace, security and disarmament in Africa, the Regional Centre redesigned its website (www.unrec.org) by adding more interactive features and links to partner institutions. Also, in August 2009, it launched a bi-monthly electronic newsletter entitled UNREC Focus, which is disseminated to more than 1,000 subscribers in Africa and worldwide. The newsletter provides information on the Centre's main projects and activities, as well as on developments related to peace, security and disarmament in Africa and at the United Nations.

⁶ The agencies involved are UNDP, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization.

42. The Regional Centre continued to promote disarmament through the organization of various events. To celebrate the International Day of Peace 2009 (21 September), it held a press conference on the Secretary-General's campaign "WMD — We Must Disarm" and a further press conference was held on the occasion of the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty. The Regional Centre also joined other United Nations entities in organizing a number of activities on promoting peace, security and disarmament in Africa, including peace forums, radio and television interviews and public presentations, during the International Day of Peace commemorations in 2009 and 2010.

D. Partnership with regional and subregional organizations and other entities

43. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre strengthened its cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in Africa, as well as with civil society organizations. Such partnerships are vital for achieving synergies among the various stakeholders in their collective efforts to promote peace, security and disarmament, including through sharing information, good practices and lessons learned.

44. The past two years have seen closer collaboration between the Regional Centre and the African Union in the fields of promoting disarmament and security in Africa. The Regional Centre participated in the 200th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council held in Addis Ababa in August 2009. The communiqué of the meeting outlined two priority areas of cooperation between the African Union and the Regional Centre, namely small arms and light weapons control and the Pelindaba Treaty.⁷ The African Union requested the Regional Centre to provide annual briefings to the African Union Peace and Security Council on disarmament issues in Africa.

45. The Regional Centre also enhanced its partnership with subregional organizations. In that context, the Regional Centre and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons reviewed their past cooperation and under their memorandum of understanding (signed in July 2009), they identified areas of future cooperation, including regulation of small arms and light weapons brokering, review of national legislation, training for security sector personnel on combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, on national registers and databases for small arms and light weapons, on stockpile management and on capacity-building for parliamentarians and civil society organizations.

46. In November 2010, discussions were held between the Regional Centre and ECCAS as to the types of assistance that the Regional Centre could provide to Central African States, based on a memorandum of understanding signed between the two institutions in 2007. Areas identified included support for the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention, the operationalization of the ECCAS small arms unit, harmonization of national legislation, development of databases and development of guidelines on small arms and light weapons; training on the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa; and capacity-building for civil society.

⁷ See <http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/organs/200%20communiqué%20UNREC%20EN.pdf>.

47. In West Africa, the Regional Centre maintained close cooperation with ECOWAS. The two institutions discussed the implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed between them in 2009 and agreed to focus their cooperation on supporting the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention, in areas such as the harmonization and review of national legislation on small arms and light weapons and regulation of brokering activities, as well as establishing a database for exemption certificates for transfers of small arms and light weapons.

48. The Regional Centre also stepped up its cooperation with civil society organizations and research and training institutions in Africa. It explored cooperation with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre on information exchange and joint programmes. In this regard, the following areas of cooperation were identified: capacity-building of civil society organizations, review of legislation on small arms, database management, security sector reform and the training of trainers. The Regional Centre serves as a member of the steering committee of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre training project on the control of small arms and light weapons. The Regional Centre cooperated with the Institute for Security Studies on issues such as supporting the implementation of the Protocol on Control of Firearms, Ammunition and other related materials of the Southern African Development Community and the Pelindaba Treaty; security sector reform; conflict and crisis prevention, management and resolution; and research and publications. The Regional Centre also worked with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on issues related to small arms and light weapons and capacity-building for parliamentarians on security sector reform.

IV. Finance, staffing and administration of the Regional Centre

A. Financial situation

49. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G, the Regional Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions. In 2009 and 2010, the Regional Centre trust fund received voluntary contributions from the Governments of Cameroon, France, Togo and Turkey in the amount of \$50,112. During the first half of 2011, the trust fund also received a voluntary contribution from the Government of Togo in the amount of \$18,971. Information on the financial status of the trust fund for 2009 and 2010 is contained in the annex.

50. The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to express his gratitude to the Governments of Cameroon, France, Togo and Turkey. He would also like to thank the Government of the Netherlands for funding an associate expert at the Regional Centre and the Government of Finland for funding the cost of a United Nations volunteer. The Secretary-General also expresses his appreciation to the Government of Austria for its generous contribution to the programmatic activities of the Regional Centre. In addition, he would like to thank the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Security Sector Network, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the International Action Network on Small Arms, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, the Institute for Security Studies, Oxfam, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms, and Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons for their

collaboration and in-kind support. The Regional Centre also benefited from in-kind contributions from UNDP.

51. The Regional Centre relies solely on voluntary contributions for all its programmes and activities. The Secretary-General would like to note that at its eighth ordinary session held in Khartoum from 16 to 21 January 2006, the Executive Council of the African Union launched an appeal for voluntary financial contributions to the trust fund of the Regional Centre.^{*} This call was reiterated by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 200th meeting on 21 August 2009.

B. Staffing

52. Currently, the regular budget covers salaries for one Senior Political Affairs Officer who serves as Director, one Political Affairs Officer (P-3), two General Service support staff, and some operating costs. All other staff, including project personnel, are funded from voluntary contributions.

53. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre had nine staff members funded from extrabudgetary resources. One United Nations international volunteer, funded by the Government of Finland, joined the Regional Centre as a security sector reform expert in November 2010. One associate expert funded by the Government of the Netherlands completed his assignment at the Regional Centre in September 2010.

V. Conclusion

54. Through implementing its programmes of activities related to small arms and light weapons control and security sector reform in various subregions in Africa, the Regional Centre has contributed to strengthening the capacity of Member States and regional and subregional organizations in their collective efforts to address the peace, security and disarmament challenges facing the continent.

55. In undertaking its programme of activities, the Regional Centre has forged and strengthened its partnerships with other stakeholders, both at the continental and subregional levels. It has gained recognition for its unique role and expertise in the fields of disarmament, peace and security in Africa, which was demonstrated by the increase in the number of requests for assistance and cooperation it received from Member States and intergovernmental organizations in Africa.

56. Furthermore, the Regional Centre has promoted the exchange and sharing of knowledge, good practices and lessons learned between the various stakeholders in Africa. It has also drawn on the experience and expertise of other United Nations entities, including the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean and in the Asia and Pacific region. This approach has helped to achieve cross-fertilization in planning and implementing their respective activities and generate greater impact.

^{*} EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.7, available at http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Decisions/com/AU6th_ord_Council_Decisions_Jan2006_Khartoum.pdf.

57. To sustain its programme of activities, the Regional Centre has developed a new programme portfolio containing a number of concrete project proposals reflecting the needs of African States. The portfolio includes strengthening the capacity of the member States of the United Nations Standing Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and of ECCAS in the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention through the harmonization of national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, the development of subregional databases of transfers of small arms and light weapons and of small arms and light weapons used for peace operations; capacity-building training sessions for defence and security forces on the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa; harmonization of national legislation of West African States with the ECOWAS Convention on small arms; strengthening the capacity of the ECOWAS Commission and national authorities for the control and regulation of small arms brokers in ECOWAS member States; and strengthening through training the capacity of African civil society organizations in practical disarmament and armed violence prevention/reduction at the community level.

58. Political and financial support from Member States, regional and subregional organizations remains vital for the Regional Centre to carry out its programmes which meet the needs of the African States. The Secretary-General calls on Member States and other donors that are in a position to do so to make financial and in-kind contributions to the Regional Centre to enable it to carry out its planned programme of activities according to its mandate.

Annex

Financial status of the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for 2009 and 2010

(In United States dollars)

	2010	2009
Reserves and fund balances at beginning of year	779 227	264 480
Income		
Voluntary contributions	40 112	10 000
Interest income	13 589	25 582
Other income	13 309	912 199 ^a
Total income	67 010	947 781
Expenditures		
Programme support costs	554 301	383 216
	72 059	49 818
Total expenditures	626 360	433 034
Reserves and fund balances at end of year^b	219 877	779 227

Note: This information is based on the statement of income and expenditures for 2009 and 2010. During this period contributions totalling \$50,412 were received as follows: 2009 — Turkey (\$10,000); 2010 — Cameroon (\$9,029.34), France (\$12,204) and Togo (\$18,878.84). During the period 1 January to 30 June 2011, a contribution totalling \$18,971 was received from the Government of Togo.

^a The total of \$912,199 represents obligations including programme support cost that were closed in 2009 and reprogrammed in 2010.

^b Consists of reserves and fund balance at the beginning of year, plus income received during the year, less expenditure incurred during the year.